윤미경
Mi-Kyung Yun
12
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

MI-YIN-SO-DU-GA
(BEAUTIFUL LADY, COMBING HER HAIR)
–BY YI HA

STANDING IN FRONT OF AN IVORY BED, FACING THE MIRROR WITH HER HAIR DOWN...

THE JADE HAIRPIN SLIDES DOWN, SOUNDLESS UPON ITS SILKEN LADDER. PUTTING HER BLACK HAIR UP IN A KNOT WITH THOSE LOVELY HANDS...

HAIR MADE OF PITCH-BLACK, HEAVENLY THREAD, TOO SMOOTH FOR A JADE HAIRPIN TO EMBRACE.

SOMETHING FALLS TO THE GROUND, TAPPING THE FLOOR LIKE A SCENTED CLOUD... IT'S MERELY A SPOOL OF THREAD.

YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL, SOAH-*NIM*.

I'M SURE THAT HABAEK-*NIM* WILL LOVE IT, TOO.

SUCH A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE...

EVEN THE SPRING BREEZE IS JEALOUS OF HER.

12 윤미경
IT'S A SHAME WE MISSED THE METEOR SHOWER. WHY DO WOMEN TAKE SO LONG TO GET READY? WOMEN SEEM MORE BEAUTIFUL WHEN THEY'RE NATURAL, WITHOUT ALL THE MAKEUP.
BRIDE of the WATER GOD
story and art by
Mi-Kyung Yun
translation
Julia Kaye
English adaptation
Philip R. Simon
lettering
Studio Cutie & Betty Dong

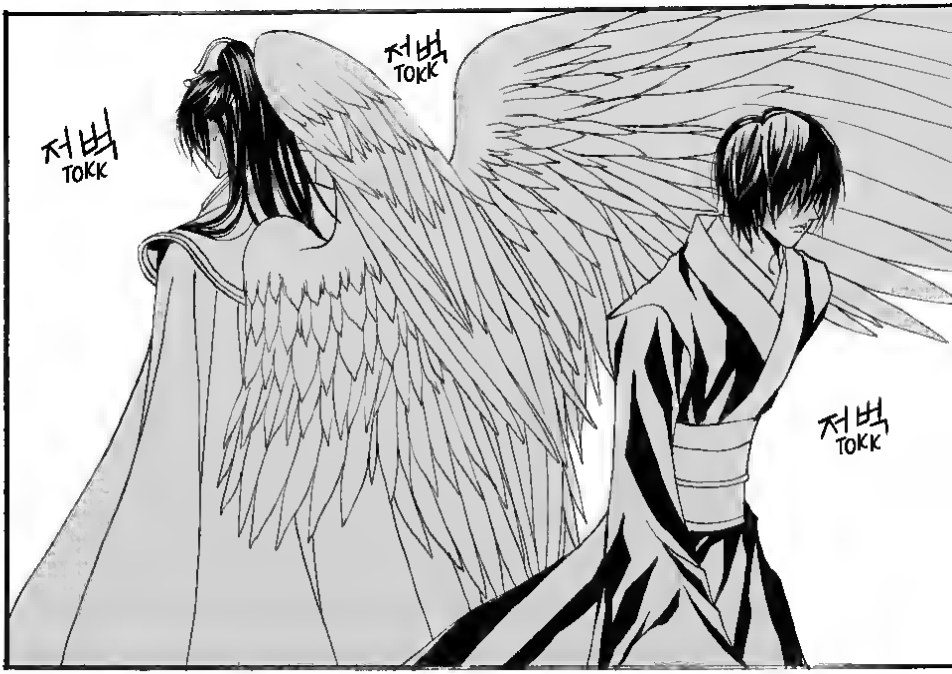
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THE LAST TIME WE COULD RELAX AND BE ALONE, SO I WANTED TO LOOK PRETTY.
HERE'S A PRESENT FOR YOU, SOAH. IN FACT, THIS IS WHY I ASKED YOU TO COME OUTSIDE.
WHAT IS IT...?
WHAT IS *THIS* FOR? YOU JUST SAID THAT YOU DON'T LIKE WOMEN TAKING SO LONG TO GET READY.
THESE *DONG-SHIM-GYUL* KNOTS MEAN "LOVE FOREVER."

BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
DOES THIS MEAN... A WEDDING?
BA-BUMP

BA-BUMP
UNLIKE THE CEREMONY WHEN MY PEOPLE SACRIFICED ME AND SENT ME ALONE INTO THE WAVES...
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP
...IT'LL BE A PROPER WEDDING CEREMONY FOR MUI AND ME!
WE DON'T NEED ONE.
SHE'S ALREADY MY WIFE. WE DON'T NEED TO GO THROUGH SUCH A LAVISH, TIRESOME RITUAL.
I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT SHINNONG WAS SUCH A COWARD.
YES, WE DO NEED IT!!

I HAVE NO REASON TO SEE HIM ANYMORE.

PLEASE FORGET OUR CONVERSATION FROM EARLIER.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HE SEEMS VERY DISAPPOINTED. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
MUI IS A LITTLE INDIFFERENT ALL THE TIME. IT'S NOT THAT HE'S BEING COLD TO ONLY YOU, DONG-WANG-GONG-NIM. SO PLEASE--DON'T WORRY.
I'LL GO AFTER HIM AND TRY TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO HIM.
LOOK AT HIM, TALKING TOUGH LIKE THAT! THAT'S JUST LIKE WANG-MO. HE'S OUR SON, ALL RIGHT-- NO DOUBT!

MUI!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
IF I TALK ABOUT DONG-WANG-GONG-NIM RIGHT AWAY, IT WILL ONLY UPSET HIM...

YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO TREAT A LADY, DO YOU?! I WANT TO HAVE A PROPER WEDDING CEREMONY!!!
I CAN'T SAY THAT...
?
PWIGH

I CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK TO SUGUK WITH YOU.
I MISS IT SO MUCH. I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR FAR TOO LONG. DON'T YOU MISS IT TOO, SORH?

LET'S START ALL OVER AGAIN IN SUGUK, WHERE WE FIRST MET.
THAT'S RIGHT... HOW COULD I FORGET ABOUT THAT PLACE? I'M SO HAPPY RIGHT NOW... I GUESS I BECAME GREEDY WITHOUT EVEN REALIZING IT.

LET'S GO BACK TO SUGUK TOGETHER...
WHERE YOU AND I FIRST MET...
...WHERE I FELL IN LOVE WITH YOU... OUR SUGUK...

HABAEK? REGARDING THE CONDITION THAT DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM* OFFERED--
I THINK THAT CONVERSATION IS OVER AND DONE WITH. NO NEED TO BRING IT UP AGAIN. UNDERSTOOD?
YOU MAY NOT WANT A WEDDING, BUT SHOULDN'T YOU CONSIDER SOAH'S FEELINGS?

SHE'S FINE WITH IT. SHE SAID THAT SHE CAN'T WAIT TO GO BACK TO SUGUK WITH ME.
WHAT ELSE CAN SHE SAY, WHEN YOU'RE SO FIRM ABOUT EVERYTHING?

IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO. YOU SHOULD HAVE A PROPER WEDDING CEREMONY AND FOLLOW ALL THE RIGHT PROCEDURES.
YOU SHOULD FOLLOW THE *CHIN-YOUNG* WAY OF BECOMING HUSBAND AND WIFE! HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT YOU WERE MARRIED WITHOUT FIRST NOTIFYING GOMAE-SHIN?!
(*CHIN-YOUNG* IS THE TRADITIONAL RITUAL BOTH FAMILIES FOLLOW IN ACCEPTING A MARRIAGE GOMAE-SHIN IS THE GOD OF MARRIAGE)
BEING A MAN, YOU MAY NOT CARE, BUT IT CAN BE AN IMPORTANT THING TO A LADY LIKE SOAH.
IN ALL THE WORLDS, WHAT KIND OF WOMAN DOESN'T DREAM ABOUT HER WEDDING?
WAIT--THERE MAY BE AN IMPORTANT STEP MISSING! HAVE YOU EVEN ***PROPOSED*** TO HER?
YES, I HAVE.
WHAT? HAVE YOU? REALLY? WHEN?

WHEN YEO-WA CAME TO SUGUK, I PROPOSED TO SOAH.
BUT, SO FAR, I DON'T HAVE HER ANSWER YET.
SO YOU'VE JUST BEEN SITTING AROUND AND WAITING FOR HER ANSWER SINCE THEN?!

CORRECT. I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER YET.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN NO, DOES IT?
YOU IDIOT! WITH ALL THAT'S BEEN GOING ON, DO YOU EXPECT SORA TO REMEMBER THAT?!
HURRY UP.
GO PROPOSE TO HER PROPERLY AGAIN!

URGH! WHAT A MORON!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT SOMEONE SO CLUELESS COULD BE SO IMPORTANT IN THIS WAR.
OH, WELL, I'M NOT REALLY IN THE POSITION TO CALL HIM A MORON. IN FACT, THE REAL MORON IS PROBABLY ME.

HE SAID THAT THERE MIGHT BE A WAR IN SUGUK... THEN THINGS WON'T BE THE SAME AS BEFORE. WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN NOW?

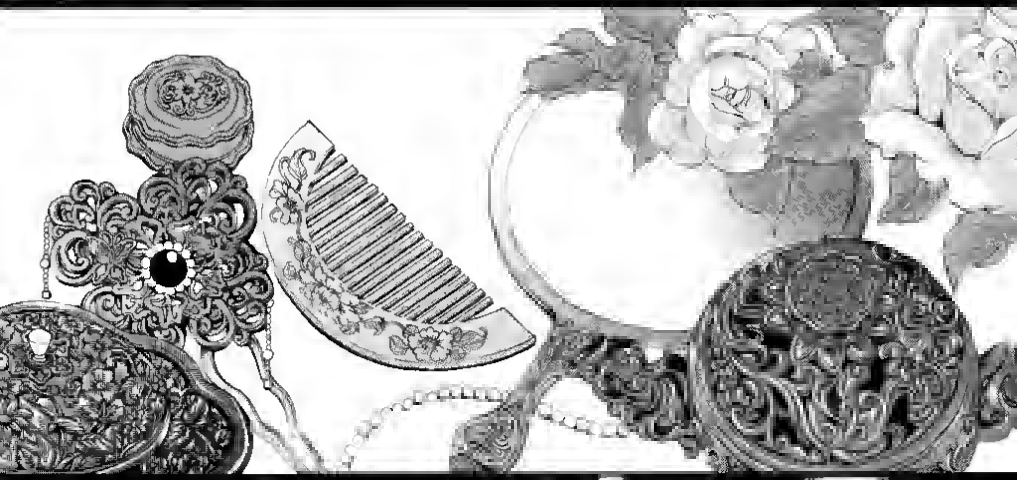
KNOCK KNOCK
MUI.
IT LOOKS LIKE WE NEED TO STAY HERE FOR A WHILE, SO YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME PACKING THINGS UP TO LEAVE.
HOW COME? WHY AREN'T WE LEAVING RIGHT AWAY?
BEFORE WE DO, THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT.
I HAVEN'T HEARD BACK FROM YOU ABOUT THE QUESTION I ASKED THE OTHER DAY.

WHAT QUESTION? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
AH! BIRYEOM WAS RIGHT.
WELL, NEVER MIND. IF YOU FORGOT, I CAN DO IT AGAIN.
??
!

LISTEN CAREFULLY THIS TIME... SINCE THIS IS THE SECOND TIME I'M ASKING...
SOAH.
WILL YOU MARRY ME?

YES.
I WILL.
PLEASE HEAR MY PRAYER, GOMAE-SHIN.

LET US LOVE EACH OTHER... NOT AS A GOD AND A HUMAN...
...BUT PLEASE LET US LOVE EACH OTHER, FOREVER, AS A MAN AND A WOMAN.



SHIK
?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT THAT IS?
THAT'S THE SWORD HABAEK USED TO STAB NAKBIN.
NAKBIN BEGGED HIM TO STAY HERE, BUT HE CHOSE SOAH.
SHE SAID HE SHOULD KILL HER AND LEAVE, AND HE DIDN'T EVEN HESITATE BEFORE STABBING HER.

THE POOR GIRL GOT KILLED TWICE FOR HIM.
HEH HEH HEH!

LOVE IS SUCH A WASTE OF TIME. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE RISK SO MUCH FOR IT.
HABAEK HAD BEEN WAITING...DYING TO SEE NAKBIN...AND IN LESS THAN A FEW HUNDRED YEARS, LOOK HOW EASILY HE FORGOT ABOUT HER.
AS HE LOVED NAKBIN, NOW HE LOVES SOAH. IT'S SUCH AN IDIOTIC THING TO GIVE UP YOUR LIFE FOR A LOVE THAT CHANGES AS FREQUENTLY AS THE AUTUMN SKY.

ALTHOUGH YOUR SISTER HAD TO SUFFER SUCH A MISERABLE DEATH, THEY ENJOY BEING TOGETHER AGAIN.
SO...WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO, HUYE?!
샤아악
WSHAAK

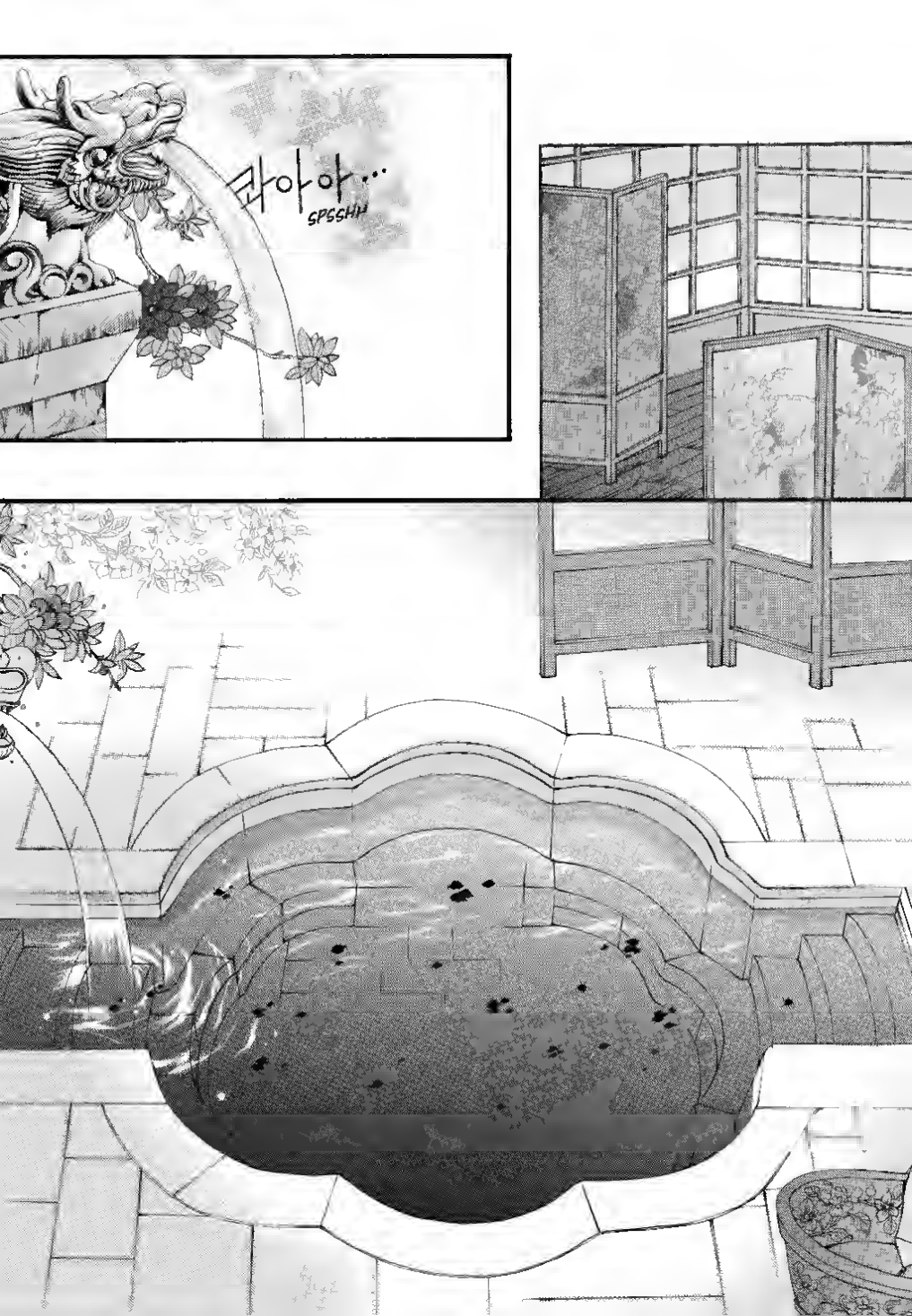
I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER.
WHAT?

EARLIER, YOU WERE ACTING AS IF YOU WERE GOING TO DEPART AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WHAT HAPPENED?
I TOTALLY UNDERSTAND IF YOU'VE CHANGED YOUR MIND AND DECIDED TO DROP IT.
NO, THAT'S FINE. I WILL CHECK FOR A GOOD DATE. I GUESS WE SHOULD PROBABLY HURRY UP BEFORE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.

KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
?
KREEK
WHO IS IT?
!!
WE CAME HERE TO TAKE YOU, SOAH-NIM.
PLEASE, HURRY UP. FOLLOW US.
WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME. WE'LL EXPLAIN WHAT'S HAPPENING AS WE GO.

PLEASE... AT LEAST TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ABOUT. HOW CAN I FOLLOW YOU WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT I'M GETTING MYSELF INTO?
IT'S A MATTER OF PREPARATION.
PREPARATION... FOR WHAT?
DON'T YOU KNOW YET?
YOU HAVE TO PREPARE FOR TONIGHT'S WEDDING CEREMONY... THE WEDDING BETWEEN YOU AND HABAEK-*NIM*.
WEDDING CEREMONY?!

WE HAVE SO MUCH TO DO, SO PLEASE HURRY.
!!
GRAB
DON'T WORRY. PLEASE, TRUST US.
WEDDING CEREMONY? TONIGHT? WHY HASN'T ANYONE TOLD ME?!


샤아아...
SPSSHH

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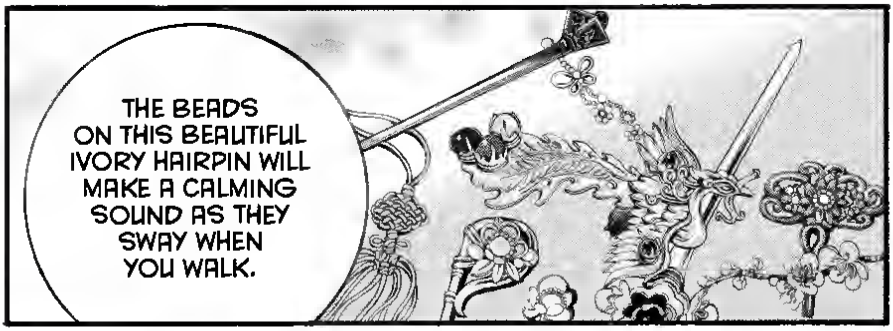
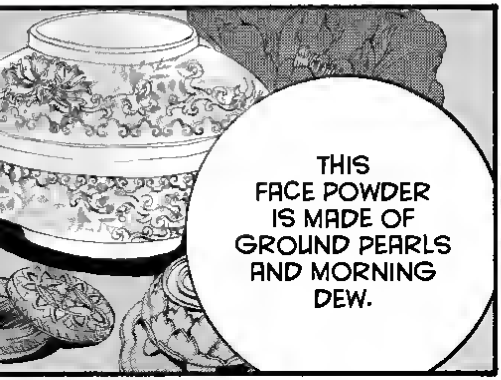
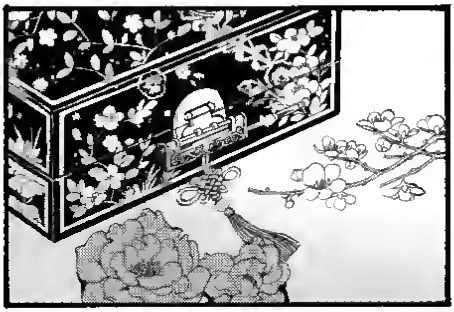
WSHFF
KYAAA! WAIT!
IT'S OKAY! I CAN DO IT! PLEASE-- LET ME DO THIS!

IF I CAN'T SEE MUI BEFORE THE WEDDING CEREMONY... THEN I CAN'T EVEN ASK HIM ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON.
FOO!
BUT... WHAT MADE HIM CHANGE HIS MIND...?
YOU HAVE SUCH SILKY HAIR, SORAH-NIM.

IF WE PUT IN THE JADE HAIRPIN FROM GON-RYOON MOUNTAIN, YOU'LL LOOK EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL.
IF WE PUT IN SOME *HYANG-TAEK*, IT WILL SHINE EVEN MORE.
THIS IS MULBERRY JUICE, MIXED WITH SOME HERBS.


THE BEADS ON THIS BEAUTIFUL IVORY HAIRPIN WILL MAKE A CALMING SOUND AS THEY SWAY WHEN YOU WALK.


THIS FACE POWDER IS MADE OF GROUND PEARLS AND MORNING DEW.



THIS ROUGE IS MADE FROM THE BEST POSSIBLE FLOWERS.
NOW, PLEASE-- GO AHEAD AND HAVE A LOOK.

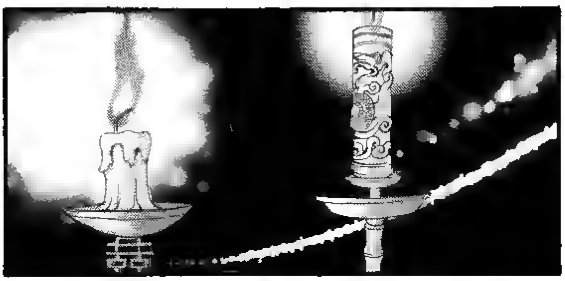
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
YOU LOOK VERY BEAUTIFUL, SOAH-*NIM*.

SOMEBODY TOLD ME WHEN I WAS LITTLE...
..."THE ELDERLY WOL-HA HAS GIVEN YOU TWO RED STRINGS.

"THEREFORE, YOU'LL BE IN LOVE WITH TWO MEN."
COME OVER HERE, SOAH.

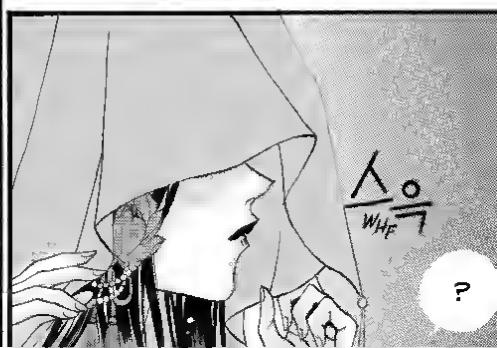
AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANT, BUT I THINK I KNOW NOW.
THE TWO PEOPLE I FELL IN LOVE WITH WERE MUI AND HABAEK.

THE TWO PEOPLE I LOVE ARE CONNECTED TO ME THROUGH THE RED STRING.
THE WATER GOD HABAEK AND THE HUMAN SOAH ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR MARRIAGE BY DRINKING *HAP-HWAN-JU* IN FRONT OF GOMAE-SHIN.
(*HAP-HWAN-JU*: AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE DRUNK BY THE BRIDE AND GROOM WHEN THEY EXCHANGE THEIR GLASSES DURING THE WEDDING CEREMONY)



SOAH-NIM HAS ARRIVED!

YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED AFTER THE CEREMONY. PLEASE, GET SOME REST IN YOUR ROOM UNTIL LATER.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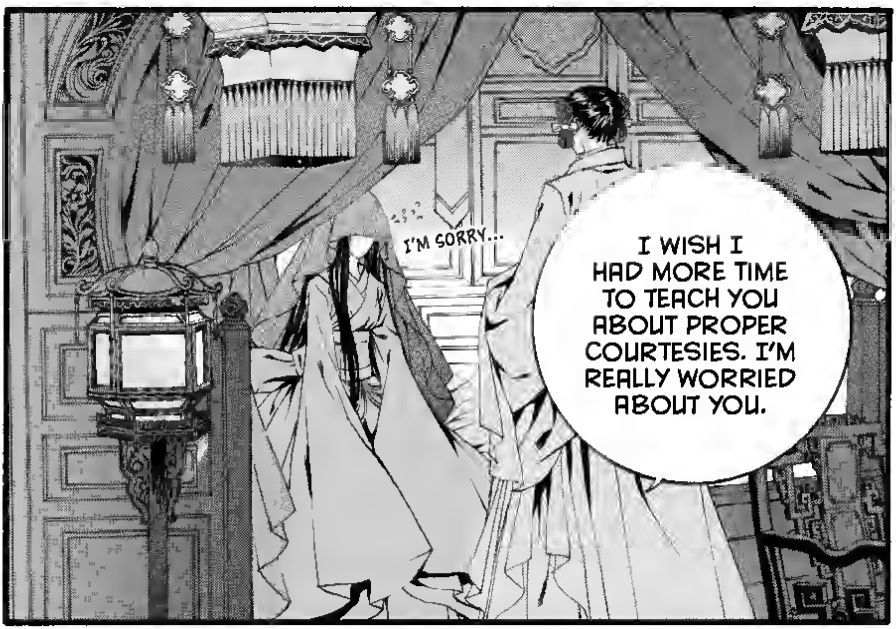
W-WAIT A MINUTE. THIS IS NOT MY ROOM.
THIS IS YOUR BRIDAL CHAMBER. YOU'LL SPEND YOUR *FIRST NIGHT* HERE.
!!!

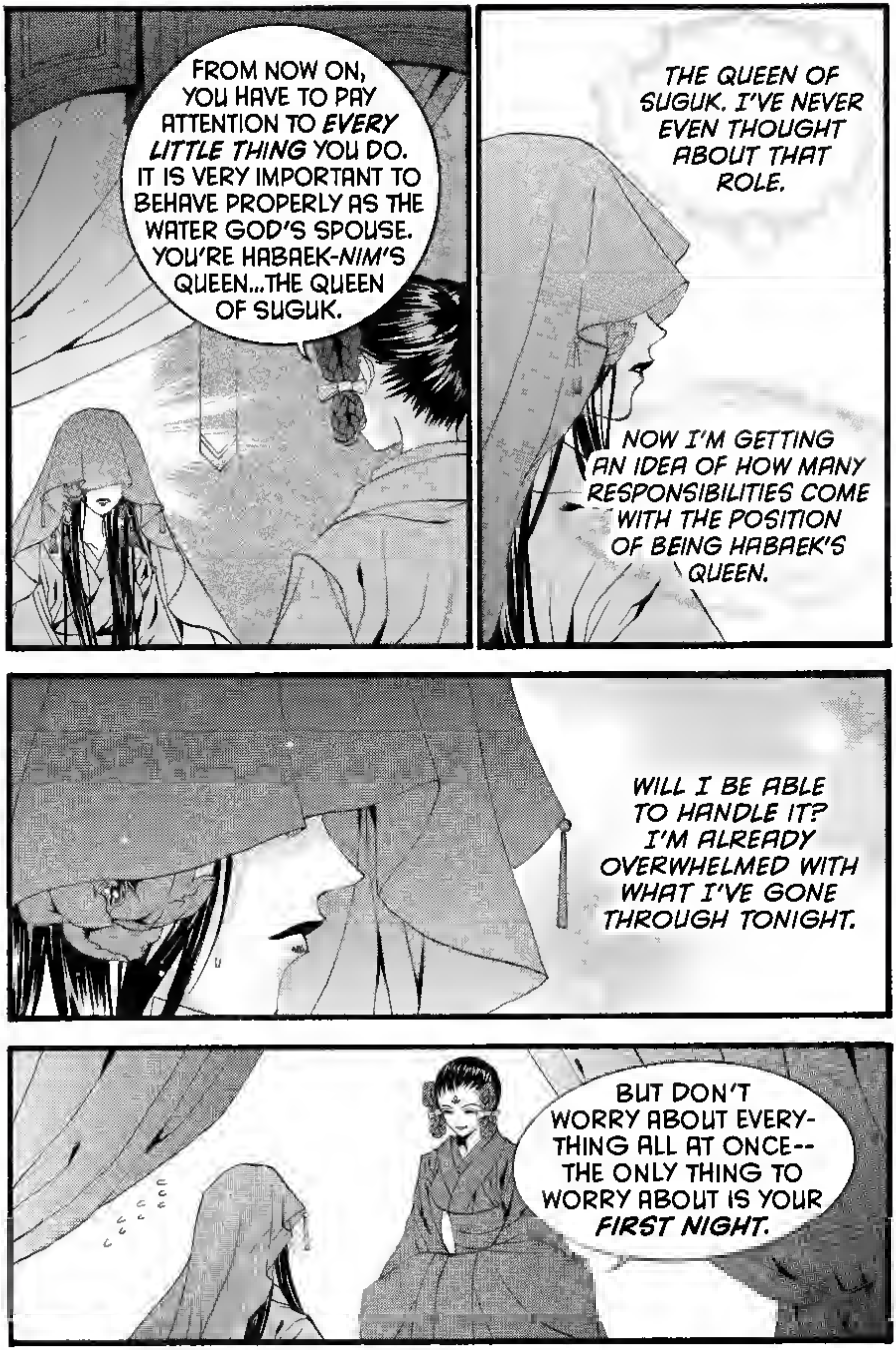
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

"Please
let us love
each other,
forever,
as a man and
a woman."

IT IS THE NEXT STEP...YOU MUST SPEND THE FIRST NIGHT AFTER YOUR WEDDING CEREMONY IN FRONT OF GOMAE-SHIN.
HABAEK-*NIM* WILL BE HERE SOON. PLEASE WAIT.

HRRGH! CAN I LIE DOWN FOR A SECOND? I'M REALLY TIRED.
NO WAY! YOU SIT STILL, OTHERWISE YOU'LL RUIN ALL THE ACCESSORIES.
NOT YET! YOU CAN'T EXPOSE YOUR FACE AND RISK SHOWING IT TO THE GROOM YET!
SIT UP! YOU'LL WRINKLE YOUR CLOTHES SLOUCHING LIKE THAT!
스르
WSHUFF


I WISH I HAD MORE TIME TO TEACH YOU ABOUT PROPER COURTESIES. I'M REALLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
I'M SORRY...


FROM NOW ON, YOU HAVE TO PAY ATTENTION TO *EVERY LITTLE THING* YOU DO. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO BEHAVE PROPERLY AS THE WATER GOD'S SPOUSE. YOU'RE HABAEK-*NIM*'S QUEEN...THE QUEEN OF SUGUK.
THE QUEEN OF SUGUK. I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT THAT ROLE.
NOW I'M GETTING AN IDEA OF HOW MANY RESPONSIBILITIES COME WITH THE POSITION OF BEING HABAEK'S QUEEN.
WILL I BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT? I'M ALREADY OVERWHELMED WITH WHAT I'VE GONE THROUGH TONIGHT.
BUT DON'T WORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING ALL AT ONCE--THE ONLY THING TO WORRY ABOUT IS YOUR *FIRST NIGHT.*

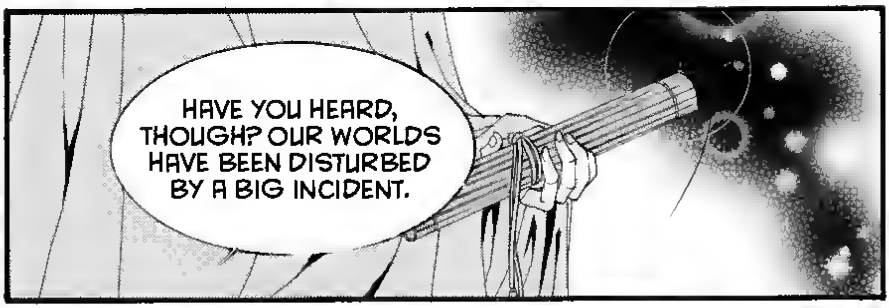
OKAY, I'LL BE OFF NOW.
W-WAIT! PLEASE DON'T LEAVE ME!
BE *CONFIDENT.* BE PROUD OF YOURSELF.
HABAEK-*NIM* IS AN EXCEPTIONAL GOD, WHO GOVERNS SUGUK WISELY.
AND YOU WERE CHOSEN BY OUR WISE HABAEK-*NIM*.

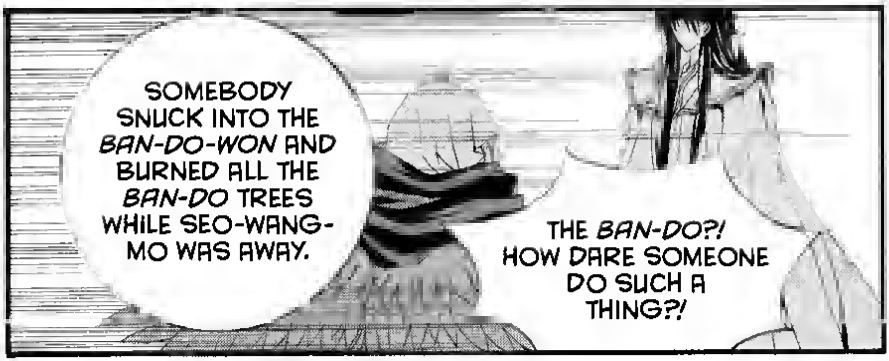
저벅 저벅
KTOK KTOK
덜컥
Sputnik

HABAEK?! WHY DID YOU COME HERE?
YOU LEFT YOUR BRIDE ALONE ON YOUR FIRST NIGHT? YOU CAME HERE? WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?
WHERE IS DONG-WANG-GONG? I CAME TO SEE HIM.

HE PROMISED TO LET ME SEE SHINNONG IF I HAD A WEDDING. WHERE IS HE?
HE IS--
DON'T WORRY. I'M GOING TO KEEP MY PROMISE.
DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM!*

IT'S NOT POSSIBLE NOW. HE'S NOT HERE.
BUT YOU'LL SEE HIM BEFORE YOU LEAVE-- I PROMISE.


HAVE YOU HEARD, THOUGH? OUR WORLDS HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY A BIG INCIDENT.


SOMEBODY SNUCK INTO THE *BAN-DO-WON* AND BURNED ALL THE *BAN-DO* TREES WHILE SEO-WANG-MO WAS AWAY.
THE *BAN-DO*?! HOW DARE SOMEONE DO SUCH A THING?!

THE RUMORS SAY THAT MURA FROM CHEONG-YO MOUNTAIN HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
!!
MURA?!

BUT WHAT'S HER MOTIVE? WHY WOULD SHE DESTROY THE *BAN-DO-WON*?
YOU'LL NEED TO LOOK INTO THIS AS SOON AS EVERYONE'S BACK IN SUGUK.
BIRYEOM, I KNOW YOU'RE FRIENDS WITH MURA. DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS?
GETTING RID OF THE *BAN-DO* CROP HAS NO BENEFIT FOR EITHER THE MAJESTY'S SIDE OR SHINNONG'S SIDE.
MURA...

SOAH-NIM, WE'LL BE RIGHT OUTSIDE. PLEASE CALL US IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
.....
HOW LONG SHOULD I SIT STILL LIKE THIS? THE HAIR ACCESSORY IS SO HEAVY...AND I'M SO SLEEPY...
IT WILL BE OKAY TO LIE DOWN FOR A FEW SECONDS, SINCE NO ONE IS HERE, RIGHT?
WHMMP
OH, WHATEVER! IT'LL BE ALL RIGHT FOR ONE MINUTE.

I REMEMBER I WAS THIS NERVOUS... WHEN I FIRST ARRIVED IN SUGUK.
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HABAEK LOOKED LIKE, AND THAT WAS SCARY... BUT AT THE SAME TIME, I WAS CURIOUS.
I WAS RELIEVED TO FIND OUT THAT HABAEK WAS A KID, BUT I WAS A LITTLE DISAPPOINTED, TOO.
BUT I COULD SLEEP BETTER, THINKING THAT MY HUSBAND WAS JUST A CHILD GOD.

I DON'T THINK I CAN SLEEP WELL TONIGHT. I'M TOO NERVOUS.
YOU PROBABLY KNOW WHY THIS HAPPENED. THERE'S ONLY ONE REASON MURA WOULD DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF YOU, WATER GOD.

I KNOW. SHE JUST WANTS TO GET MY ATTENTION.
I KNOW THAT ONLY I CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM, TOO.
BUT SINCE THIS IS MY WEDDING DAY, PLEASE GET ME OUT OF THIS.
I SHOULD BE THINKING ABOUT ONLY ONE WOMAN TONIGHT.
RIGHT. FINE. I'LL BAIL YOU OUT TONIGHT.
GO TO HER. WE'LL TALK ABOUT MURA LATER.

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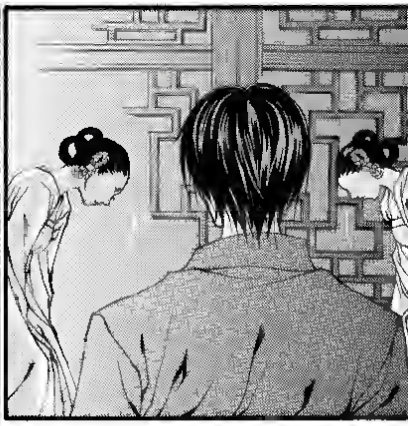

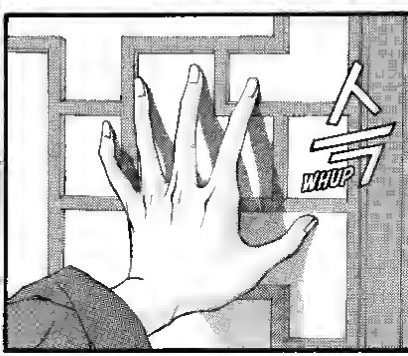
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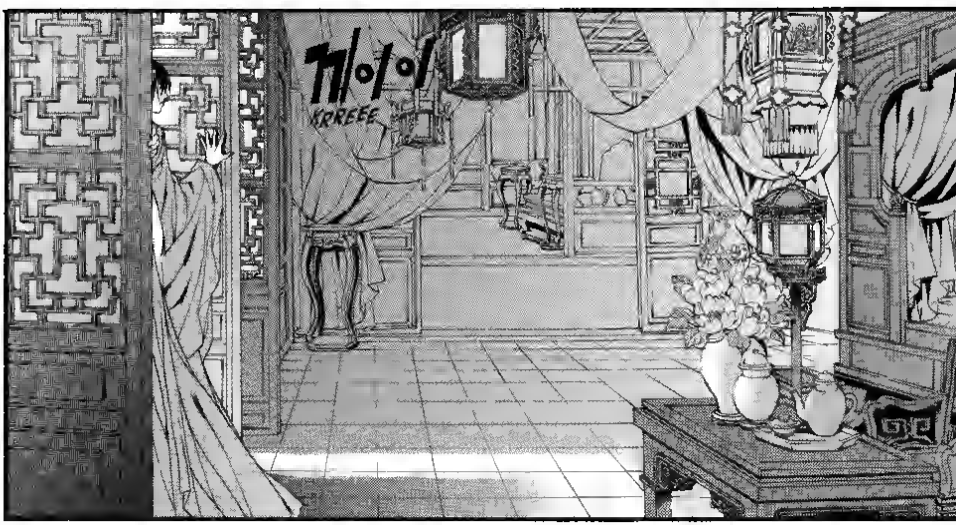
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KRREEE

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OH, NO... MY BRIDE FELL ASLEEP ALONE...
SHE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT SINCE WE FIRST MET.
I WONDER IF SHE SEES MUCH DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LITTLE-BOY HABAEK AND ME, THE ADULT?

사랑
First Sin

MUI!
WHEN DID YOU GET HERE? WHY DIDN'T YOU WAKE ME UP?
SWF
ISN'T IT A BIT INSENSITIVE FOR A BRIDE TO FALL ASLEEP BEFORE HER HUSBAND ARRIVES?
AH...

THAT EYE... I WONDER HOW LONG MUI WILL KEEP IT BANDAGED LIKE THAT...?
WERE YOU UPSET WITH ME FOR TAKING SO LONG...
...SOAH?
!!

스륵
SWF
스륵
SWF
스륵
SWF
TIP
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID TO ME ABOUT YOUR EYE? YOU SAID YOU GAVE NAKBIN YOUR LEFT EYE, SO YOU'LL ONLY LOOK AT ME WITH YOUR RIGHT EYE.

THAT'S UNACCEPTABLE.

YOU'RE A GOD. PLEASE-- LOOK AT ME WITH *BOTH OF YOUR EYES* FROM NOW ON.

I KNOW.
I KNOW WHAT SHE MEANT TO YOU. I KNOW THAT I AM NOTHING COMPARED TO HER.
I'M NOT TRYING TO BE GREEDY, BUT... I'M YOUR WIFE NOW.

SO, STARTING TONIGHT...
...WILL YOU LOOK AT *ME* ONLY, PLEASE... AND WITH BOTH EYES?

WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?
I THOUGHT I KNEW YOU, BUT I GUESS I REALLY DON'T.
SOMETIMES YOU SEEM TOO CONFIDENT AND BOLD.
THEN, OTHER TIMES, YOU SEEM SO TIMID.
.....

DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
?
WHEN YOU'D JUST ARRIVED AT SUGUK, I TOLD YOU TO GO BACK HOME, AND YOU WERE QUITE UPSET...
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, TELLING ME WHAT TO DO?
I'M HABAEK'S BRIDE, NOT YOURS!
AND GET THIS STRAIGHT-- I'M NEVER GOING BACK!
BECAUSE HABAEK... HABAEK IS DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH ME!!

THAT... THAT WAS BECAUSE...I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO SAY.
I AM INDEED...
...DEEPLY IN LOVE WITH YOU NOW, SO PLEASE BE MORE CONFIDENT, MY BRIDE!

I'M SORRY IF I MADE YOU FEEL INSECURE.
YOU ALSO TOLD ME THAT HABAEK WOULD PROTECT YOU FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE...
I PROMISE.

I'LL PROTECT YOU FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.

BY THE WAY, I'M TELLING YOU THIS BECAUSE IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY FORGOTTEN.
FROM HERE ON OUT, NEVER FORGET...
...THAT MY WORD IS HABAEK'S WORD.
AH! I DID FORGET FOR A MOMENT.
THE MAN IN FRONT OF ME IS HABAEK, THE WATER GOD...

...AND AS A WATER GOD, HE'S SO POWERFUL HE CAN TERRIFY AND TORMENT PEOPLE IF HE REALLY WANTS TO.
HE'S USUALLY SWEET AND KIND, BUT HE CAN QUICKLY TURN WILD AND FURIOUS... LIKE THE SEA.
스륵..
FSHF

AND HE IS...
...MY HUSBAND... WE'RE MARRIED...

BAMM
BAMM
BAMM
BAMM
!!
W-WAIT, MUI! SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR.
BAMM
BAMM
BAMM

IT'S OKAY. IF WE DON'T ANSWER, THEY'LL LEAVE.
HABAEK! IT'S AN EMER-GENCY!
BAMM
BAMM
BAMM
BAMM
IT'S NOTHING. DON'T WORRY.
HABAEK! ARE YOU THERE?! COME ON OUT! IT'S AN EMERGENCY!
IF YOU DON'T COME OUT, I'M BREAKING IN!

HABAEK!
THAT GUY...
WAIT HERE FOR A MINUTE. I'LL SEND HIM AWAY AND BE RIGHT BACK.

KAKOOM
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?!
AH! HABAEK! I'M SORRY, BUT I NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME! RIGHT NOW!!
WHAT? DON'T YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT TONIGHT IS FOR ME?

I'M SORRY, HABAEK, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY BROKE IN AND KIDNAPPED DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM*.
WHAT?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU SAID THAT THIS PLACE WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO GET INTO. WHO COULD HAVE BREACHED THE BARRIER?

IT'S *USUALLY* IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO GET INTO THE MOON PALACE WITHOUT PERMISSION. IT'S ESPECIALLY HARD FOR THOSE WITH WATER POWERS...
...BUT SINCE YOU PASSED OUT EARLIER, DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM* MADE THE BARRIER WEAKER.
DID YOU FIND OUT WHO BROKE IN?
WELL...AH...

I THINK YOU SHOULD CHECK IT OUT YOURSELF.
FOLLOW ME. THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.

SOMEONE KILLED THE GUARDIAN BIRD WITH A SINGLE SHOT. IT'S RARE FOR SOMEONE TO BE SO SKILLED.
BUT YOU KNOW WHO *COULD* DO THIS, DON'T YOU?
THIS IS--

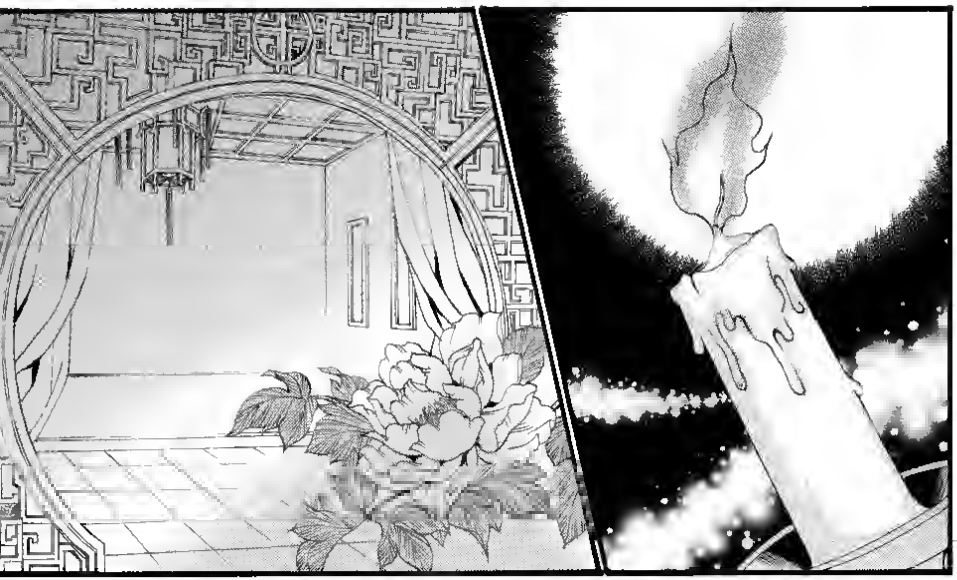
HUYE...WAS IT YOU?!

IF YOU BETRAY ME, TOO...
...I'M NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE YOU.
YES.

YES...
HABAEK-NIM.
HUYE!
ARE YOU HERE?! DID YOU DO THIS?!

ARE YOU THINKING OF THE SAME PERSON THAT I'M THINKING OF RIGHT NOW...?
YOU BETTER HOPE IT'S NOT HIM.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

IF IT *IS* HIM, IT WILL BE... REALLY UGLY FOR EVERY-ONE.
!!



WHY DID HE HAVE TO RUSH AWAY LIKE THAT? WHAT'S GOING ON?

I HAVE AN ODD FEELING THAT SOMETHING BAD'S GOING TO HAPPEN.

MUI...
...PLEASE HURRY BACK TO ME...

IF IT WAS HUYE, WHY DID HE TAKE DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM*?
DID HIS MAJESTY FORCE HIM TO DO THIS? I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT HE'S TRYING TO DO THIS TIME.

IT IS SURELY STRANGE. IF HE KNEW HOW TO GET IN HERE, WHY DIDN'T HE JUST KILL DONG-WANG-GONG? BUT HE KIDNAPPED HIM, INSTEAD. WHAT DOES HE HAVE IN MIND?
ANYWAY, WE NEED TO FIND HUYE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
WE'LL FIGURE OUT THE *REASON* ONCE WE HAVE HIM.

FIRST, WE MUST ENHANCE THE SHIELD.
IT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU AND SOAH TO STAY HERE WITHOUT THE PROPER BARRIER IN PLACE.
H WIPP
?
NO!

SOAH!!
쾅
KTAMM
?

.....
MUI...IS THAT YOU?
WHO'S THERE?
끼이익
KREEE

H-
HUYE?!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE. YOU LOOK GREAT. I'M GLAD.
WHAT'S GOING ON? HOW DID YOU GET HERE?

ARE YOU HURT? YOU'RE BLEEDING...
I'M FINE. THIS ISN'T MY BLOOD.
HUH? THEN...WHOSE BLOOD IS THAT?
IT'S NOT IMPORTANT. COME WITH ME. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
RUNNING OUT
OF TIME?
I CAME HERE
FOR YOU.
!!
LET'S GO
BACK TOGETHER,
SOAH.

HE WANTS ME TO...LEAVE WITH HIM?
NO. I WON'T GO.
I WON'T.
I HAVE TO STAY HERE.
BECAUSE MUI TOLD ME TO STAY HERE.

EVEN THOUGH IT'LL SHORTEN YOUR LIFE BY *HALF* IF YOU LINGER ANY LONGER?
?!

YOUR FACE IS TELLING ME THAT YOU DON'T KNOW.

THIS HASN'T BEEN A GOOD PLACE FOR HUMANS FROM THE START...
...AND THE SHIELD PROTECTING YOU HAS DISAPPEARED. WITHOUT IT, THIS MOON PALACE IS TOO DANGEROUS FOR YOU, A MERE HUMAN.
ANY REMAINING PROTECTIVE POWER FROM THE SHIELD WILL ONLY LAST A DAY, TOPS. WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.

A HUMAN BEING'S LIFE IS SHORT ENOUGH ALREADY, AND YOU'LL LOSE HALF OF IT.
SO, PLEASE, COME WITH ME.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO A SAFE PLACE, WHERE YOU CAN ESCAPE THE EMPEROR'S WATCH.

NO. I DON'T WANT TO GO.
!!
WHY? ARE YOU NOT AFRAID OF DEATH?
I *AM* AFRAID OF DEATH. I WANT TO LIVE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT...

...IF I CAN LIVE FOR ONLY ONE DAY LONGER, I WANT TO SPEND IT WITH THE ONE I LOVE.
WHAT'S THE POINT OF LIVING WHEN YOU'RE NEVER WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE?

YOU'RE SELFISH.
SO...I'M GOING TO STAY. I'M SORRY, HUYE.
UH...WHAT?

YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOU'RE HAPPY NOW, BUT HAVEN'T YOU CONSIDERED THAT HABAEK-*NIM* WILL BE LEFT ALL ALONE AFTER YOU DIE?
WILL YOU DIE AND LEAVE HIM WITH THE ETERNAL PAIN OF LOSING A LOVED ONE AGAIN? OF BEING ALONE ONCE MORE?
!!

AND YOU, HUYE? I SEE BY YOUR FACE THAT YOU'RE EAGER TO GO, READY TO LEAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT HABAEK'S FEELINGS. YOU DON'T CARE ABOUT THE ONE WHO WILL BE LEFT BEHIND ALONE.

KASPLOOOSH
!!
SPLOOSHAA

HUYE!

HABAEK-
NIM.

LET HER GO. I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW YOU TO LEAVE WITH JUST A WARNING THIS TIME.
PLEASE DON'T BITE OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW, HABAEK-NIM. I KNOW THAT YOU CAN BARELY STAND UP RIGHT NOW.
AN ATTACK? YOUR WATER POWERS SEEM WEAK AT THE MOMENT.

I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU.
NEITHER DO I...

BUT WHY DID YOU HAVE TO KILL HER?
!!
SHE OVERCAME DEATH--JUST BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO BE WITH YOU!
...BECAUSE I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE PROTECTING YOU.
HUYE...

HE MISUNDER-STANDS HOW NAKBIN DIED.
!!
LOOK-- THAT'S NOT TRUE, HUYE! MUI WAS--
NO EXCUSES! PLEASE, SOAH-NIM!
WHATEVER THE SPECIFICS... NAKBIN DIED BECAUSE OF HABAEK-NIM.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, HUYE-*NIM*?
IT'S NOT THE TIME TO HAVE A LITTLE CHAT LIKE OLD FRIENDS.
SHINNG

I CAN'T MISS THIS CHANCE...NOT WHEN THE WATER GOD IS SO WEAK AND RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
챙
HWAK
!!
.....
STOP. THE EMPEROR ORDERED US TO CAPTURE HIM. ARE YOU GOING TO DISOBEY DIRECT ORDERS?
OF COURSE NOT. HIS WORD IS ABSOLUTE.

BUT...WELL... OKAY, I JUST *HAVE* TO DISOBEY HIM *THIS ONE TIME!*
FWOOSH
CHEON-HOO!!
!!

화르르
FFSSSH
!!
OW!
TA TANNG
챙그
FIRE?! WHO DID THIS?!
!
화르르
FSSSH
HOW COULD THE PALACE GET SO MESSED UP WHILE I WAS GONE?

DID I TAKE TOO LONG TO GET BACK?

휘익
FWSH
스윽
BOW
WELCOME BACK.
MY GREETINGS TO YEOM-JE...SHIN-NONG-*NIM*.

HE'S THE--
HE'S YEOM-JE WHEN ADDRESSED FORMALLY... ALSO KNOWN AS SHINNONG-NIM-- THE CHALLENGER TO THE EMPEROR!
FORMERLY A CREATOR, HE STILL POSSESSES THE POWER OF FIRE.
HE'S KNOWN AS THE ONE WHO HOLDS THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF EVERYTHING IN HIS HANDS.

BIRYEOM, I TRUSTED YOU. YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO TAKE CARE OF THE MOON PALACE. WHAT HAPPENED?
WHERE IS DONG-WANG-GONG? WHY ARE THESE UNINVITED PEOPLE HERE?
I AM VERY SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
HMPH! THERE IS ONLY ONE MAJESTY--AND IT'S NOT YOU. THE TRUE CREATOR IN OUR REALM IS NOW HEON-WON-*NIM* ONLY.
STOP IT, CHEON-HOO. DON'T BE SO RUDE!

I'M NOT SURE IF YOU'LL BELIEVE ME, BUT WE'VE JUST TAKEN DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM* TO WHERE SEO-WANG-MO IS...SO THEY CAN FINALLY SEE EACH OTHER.
TO SEE MY MOTHER?!
I PROMISE THAT NO HARM WILL COME TO DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM*

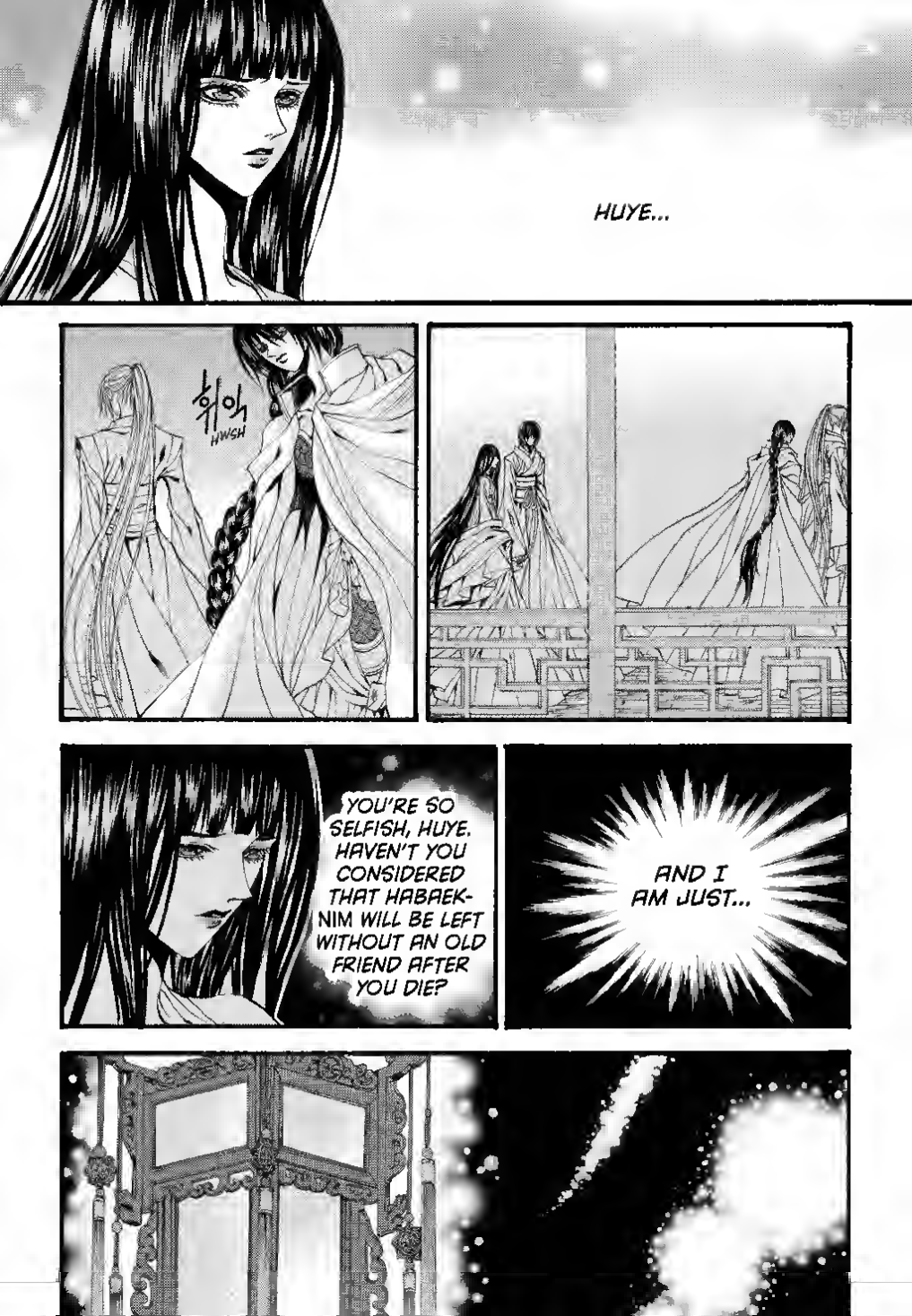
OF COURSE, IF DONG-WANG-GONG-*NIM* WANTS TO RETURN, WE WILL SEND HIM RIGHT BACK HERE.
HFF! FINE. I WILL TRUST WHAT YOU SAY...
...BECAUSE YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM YOUR FATHER.

I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE ANY MORE TROUBLE HERE. WOULD YOU PERMIT US TO LEAVE NOW?
PLEASE FORGIVE US FOR ENTERING WITHOUT PERMISSION.
YES. YOU MAY GO.
SHINNONG-*NIM!* *NO! PLEASE, DON'T!*

I'VE MADE MY DECISION. ARE YOU TRYING TO BE CONTENTIOUS?
NO, I'M NOT. I'M SORRY, YOUR HIGHNESS.
THAT'S THE SHINNONG-NIM THAT HABAEK TOLD ME ABOUT?

ARE YOU OKAY, SOAH?
AH!
MUI...

YOU DON'T NEED TO HAVE YOUR GUARD UP ANYMORE TODAY. I'M LEAVING.
HABAEK-*NIM*... THESE ARE OUR LAST MOMENTS AS FRIENDS. WHEN WE SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN, I WILL BE YOUR ENEMY, FIGHTING FOR THE OTHER SIDE.


HUYE...
휘익
HWISH
YOU'RE SO SELFISH, HUYE. HAVEN'T YOU CONSIDERED THAT HABAEK-NIM WILL BE LEFT WITHOUT AN OLD FRIEND AFTER YOU DIE?
AND I AM JUST...

YOU MUST BE THE SON OF GOON-MYUNG!
IT'S VERY NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU, SHINNONG-*NIM*.
IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES, I'M NOT CONCERNED WITH ETIQUETTE OR BEING OVERLY POLITE, SO PLEASE BE PATIENT WITH ME IF I GET A BIT RUDE.
HABAEK! YOU'RE ***ALREADY*** BEING TERRIBLY RUDE TO OUR MAJESTY! I CANNOT ALLOW ANY MORE OF THIS DISCOURTESY, NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE!
IT'S OKAY, BIRYEOM. I UNDERSTAND. HE'S IN A UNIQUE, SENSITIVE POSITION.
BUT--

I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT ALONE.
FOLLOW ME, HABAEK.
FIRST OF ALL, I THINK I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO YOU. IN FACT, I DIDN'T EXPECT TO MEET WITH YOU AT ALL.

I ONLY WANTED YOU AND YOUR FATHER TO MEET, BUT I ENDED UP PUTTING YOU AND GOON-MYUNG IN DANGER.
I ALSO HEARD FROM BIRYEOM THAT YOU'VE BEEN WANTING TO MEET WITH ME. WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
BEFORE WE GET TO THAT, I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU THIS FIRST--WHY DID YOU LET THEM GO?

DO YOU REALLY THINK THEY'RE GOING TO RETURN DONG-WANG-GONG IN ONE PIECE?
WE KNOW THAT THE EMPEROR TOOK DONG-WANG-GONG.
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK THAT HE TOOK DONG-WANG-GONG JUST SO MY MOTHER COULD HAVE A REUNION, DO YOU?
NO. I DON'T.
WSHAAA

HE'S MY BROTHER. I KNOW HIM BETTER THAN ANYONE.
BUT IT COULDN'T BE HELPED. IN MY CURRENT CONDITION, ALL I CAN DO IS MAINTAIN THE MOON PALACE'S RESTORED SHIELD.
!!
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT THEY DECIDED TO LEAVE.
IF THERE HAD BEEN A FIGHT, THE SHIELD MIGHT HAVE FULLY COLLAPSED... AND I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THE OTHERS, BUT SOAH--BEING HUMAN--WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED.
SHE'S VERY PRECIOUS TO YOU, ISN'T SHE?

I OWE SO MUCH TO YOUR PARENTS. I'M GOING TO HELP YOU AND THEM, NO MATTER WHAT. BUT NOW I WANT YOU TO GO. PLEASE LEAVE THIS PLACE!
THE MOON IS NOT SAFE FOR YOU AND SOAH ANYMORE. MY POWER IS NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO PROTECT YOU BOTH--ESPECIALLY WITHOUT DONG-WANG-GONG'S HELP.
AND CONCERNING SOAH...WERE YOU PLANNING TO FIND A *BAN-DO* FRUIT FOR HER TO EAT SO SHE COULD EXTEND HER LIFE?
THE GROVE OF THE *BAN-DO-WON* HAS BEEN BURNED DOWN. WE CAN NO LONGER HARVEST THOSE SPECIAL FRUITS!
BUT MURA LEFT A MESSAGE FOR YOU.

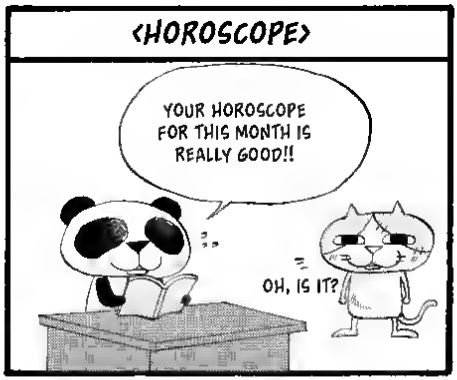
SHE SAID THAT YOU CAN COME TO HER IF YOU WANT THE ONE AND ONLY *BAN-DO* FRUIT LEFT IN THE REALM.
MURA HAS THE ONLY ONE LEFT?!
SINCE HUMANS HAVE SUCH A SHORT LIFESPAN, THE LOVE SHARED BETWEEN A GOD AND A HUMAN CAN FEEL AS BRIEF AS A DAYDREAM. BECAUSE OF THIS, GODS LIKE YOU--THOSE WHO'D ALSO FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HUMANS--FIGURED OUT HOW TO EXTEND THEIR LOVED ONES' LIVES WITH THE *BAN-DO* FRUIT.
HOWEVER, I'M AGAINST THE IDEA. WE MAY BE GODS, BUT WE SHOULDN'T GO AGAINST NATURE'S WISHES.
A HUMAN MAY DIE QUICKLY, BUT IF SHE FEELS THE LOVE OF A GOD, SHE SHOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR THE SHORT TIME SHE GETS.

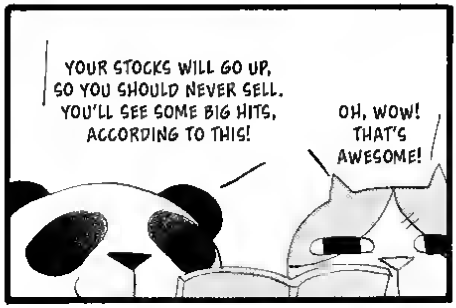
NO. I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING.
AS LONG AS I KNOW THAT THERE'S ONE *BAN-DO* FRUIT LEFT, I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET IT IN MY HAND.
EVEN IF THAT LEADS TO YOU LOSING YOUR POWERS AS A GOD?
!!

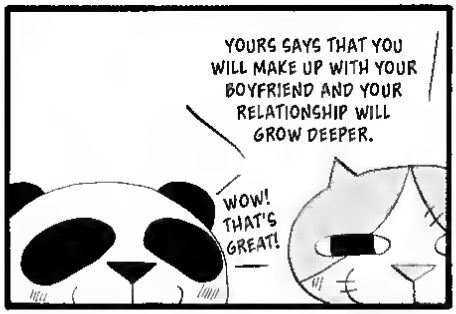
BRIDE of the WATER GOD

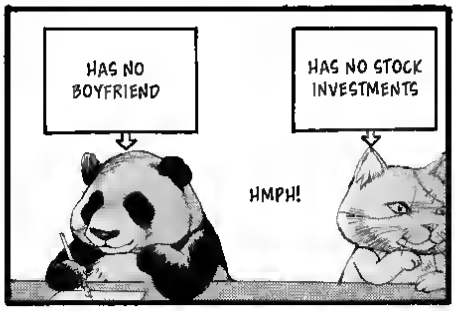
MI-GAENG'S ☆CLOSING DIARY☆

("MI-GAENG" IS MI-KYUNG YUN'S NICKNAME.)









PFFT! HOROSCOPES...

<TRANSLATED EDITION>

WHEN A TRANSLATED EDITION OF *BRIDE OF THE WATER GOD* IS RELEASED, EACH EDITOR SENDS ME A COPY.

OH! THIS IS FUN.

BA-BUMP
두근
두근
BA-BUMP

<REMEMBER YOUR BEGINNINGS>

ARE YOU GETTING A BIT COCKIER AND LAZIER THE LONGER YOU HAVE A GO AT THIS CAREER?

WHEN I LOOK AT A NEW ONE, IT MAKES ME EMBARRASSED AND EXCITED AT THE SAME TIME. I FEEL A LOT OF DIFFERENT EMOTIONS!

AND...THERE'S THIS ONE THING THAT BOTHERS ME.

RETURN TO WHEN YOU FIRST BEGAN! REMEMBER THOSE TIMES? EVERYTHING IS FRESH AND VIBRANT WHEN YOU'RE FIRST STARTING OUT!

HEY, WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT A STORY LIKE THIS?

IT IS ABOUT A MALE HERO WHO AROUSE BIG EVERY NIGHT

A PERVERT

SIS-TER→

I'M NOT EVEN CLOSE TO FINISHING THIS. THIS IS WRONG! I'M USELESS.

I'M SO SORRY. ONE MORE DAY, PLEASE! I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME.

SERIOUSLY, I'LL DO BETTER NEXT TIME...

NOW MY SISTER IS SAYING "PERVERT"... IN SO MANY DIFFERENT LANGUAGES AROUND THE WORLD!!

PERVERT

PERVERTS

WHAT?! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL?!

I'LL...I'LL TRY HARDER. -_-

My editor suggested that I add some traditional Korean flavor to my author's comments in *Bride of the Water God* Volume 12, so here I am dressed in the indigenous *hanbok* style, which has a charm that I'm really into these days. I think that children's *hanbok* is especially cute and pretty. Someday, I want to work on a cartoon in which all the characters wear *hanbok*.

—*Mi-Kyung Yun*

CREATOR PROFILE

Born on October 14, 1980. Majored in Animation at Mokwon University.

Received the silver medal for Seoul Media Group's "Shin-in-gong-mo-jeon" ("New Artist Debut Competition") for *Na-eu Ji gu Bang-moon-gi* (*The Journey of My Earth Visit*) in 2003.

Received a "Shin-in-sang" ("Best New Artist") award from the Dokja-manhwa-daesang organization for *Railroad* in 2004.

Won the Korean "Manhwa of Today" award for *Bride of the Water God* in 2007.

Currently publishing *Bride of the Water God* serially in the Korean comics magazine *Wink*.

publisher
Mike Richardson

editor
Philip R. Simon

assistant editor
Everett Patterson

digital production
Christianne Goudreau

collection designers
David Nestelle & Tina Alessi

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윤미경

Mi-Kyung Yun

12

BRIDE of the WATER GOD

Habaek and Soah are finally set to be married in a lavish ceremony on the moon! But that very night, before the troubled water god and his beautiful human bride can consummate their love, the barriers surrounding the lunar palace are breached. Someone close to Habaek has been kidnapped, and no god or human is safe as a celestial civil war erupts!

The twelfth installment in Mi-Kyung Yun's sumptuous *Bride of the Water God* manhwa series cranks up the action and drama, with new alliances forming and ancient friendships splintering!

GRAPHIC NOVEL / MANHWA / FANTASY

Visit DarkHorse.com for previews of all Dark Horse Manhwa titles!

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